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AMPTHILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

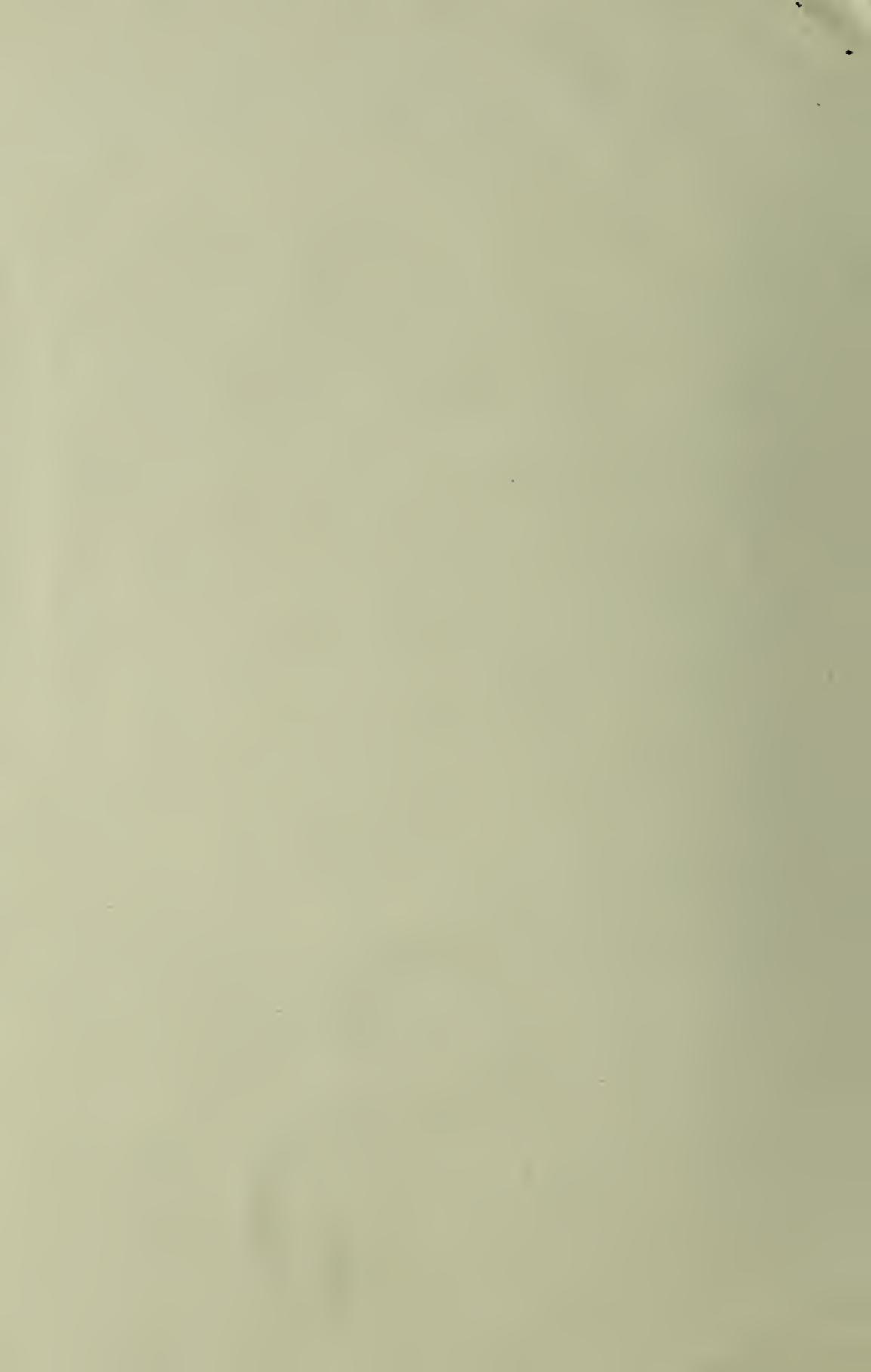
ANNUAL

R E P O R T

of



MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
SURVEYOR AND SANITARY INSPECTOR
for the
Year 1942.



AMPTHILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of laying before you my Annual Report on the state of Public Health and Sanitary Conditions prevailing in your area for the year 1942.

The Report is drawn up in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health circular 1961 of February 16th, 1940.

SECTION A. Statistics of the Area

Area in Acres	....	1904
Population Census 1931	....	2157
Population 1942 (estimated Mid Year)	....	2840
Number of inhabited Houses, at end of 1942		830
Rateable Value	....	£14,876
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	....	£56. 11. 6.

Social Conditions

Amphill is a market town, head of a petty sessional division, and is centrally situated in the county, 45 miles from London, and 8 miles South of Bedford. The town stands on high ground, shielded on the North and East by hills and open to the South. Its position on a dry sandy soil renders it very healthy, while the scenery of the neighbourhood is picturesque. The town is lighted with gas from Luton and electric light from the Bedford Corporation. Many of the inhabitants go to Luton daily and work in the hat trade. There is very little unemployment in the district and there is no evidence that unemployment has exercised any adverse influence on the health or physique of children or adults.

		<u>Vital Statistics</u>		
		<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Live Births - Legitimate	..	40	17	23
Illegitimate	..	5	3	2
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population is 15.8				
Still Births - Legitimate	..		0	0
Illegitimate	..		0	0
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births is nil				
Deaths	..	33	14	19
giving a death rate of 11.6 per 1,000 population.				
Birth Rate for England & Wales		15.8		
Death " "	" "	" "	11.6	

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

(Headings 29 & 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List)

	Deaths	Death Rate per 1000 (Live & Still) births
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	0	0
No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u><u>0</u></u>	<u><u>0</u></u>

Maternity Mortality for England & Wales:-

Puerperal Sepsis -	.42	per 1,000 live & still births
Other Causes	<u>1.59</u>	" " " "
Total	<u><u>2.01</u></u>	<u><u>2.01</u></u>

INFANTILE MORTALITY

One death among all infants under one year of age giving a death rate of 22.2 per 1,000 live births

One death among the Legitimate Infants under one year of age, giving a death rate of 25 per 1,000 legitimate live births.

No death among the Illegitimate live births.

Deaths from all causes

	M	F
1) Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	0	0
2) Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	0
3) Scarlet Fever	0	0
4) Whooping Cough	0	0
5) Diphtheria	0	0
6) Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	0	0
7) Other Forms of Tuberculosis	0	0
8) Syphilitic Diseases	0	0
9) Influenza	0	0
10) Measles	0	0
11) Acute Polio-myelitis & Polio encephalitis	0	0
12) Acute infective Encephalitis	0	0
13) Cancer of b: cavity & Oesophagus (M) Uterus (F)	0	1
14) Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	0
15) Cancer of breast	0	0
16) Cancer of all other sites	0	1
17) Diabetes	0	0
18) Intra-cranial vascular lesions	2	4
19) Heart Disease	3	3
20) Other Diseases of Circulatory System	0	1
21) Bronchitis	3	1
22) Pneumonia	0	2

	H	F
23) Other Respiratory Diseases	1	1
24) Ulceration of Stomach and Duodenum	0	0
25) Diarrhoea under 2 years	0	0
26) Appendicitis	0	0
27) Other Digestive Diseases	0	1
28) Nephritis	0	1
29) Puerperal & Post-abortive Sepsis	0	0
30) Other Maternal Causes	0	0
31) Premature Birth	0	1
32) Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries & Infantile Diseases	0	0
33) Suicide	0	0
34) Road Traffic Accidents	0	0
35) Other violent causes	0	0
36) All other causes	2	3
All causes	14	19

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area

1. (i) Public Health Officers of the Authority:-
Medical Officer of Health, - Dr. W.K.PARBURY,
M.R.C.S.Eng., L.R.C.P.Ldn.
D.P.H.Camb., D.N.R.E.Camb.
Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor Mr. Thos. A. HAWTIN,
M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.,
Certificate of the R.S.I.

1. (ii) (a) Laboratory Facilities.

Pathological and Bacteriological specimens are carried out by Dr. Rutherford Tree at the Bedford County Hospital. No swabs were taken for Diphtheria.

1. (ii) (b) Ambulance Facilities.

Infectious Diseases.

There is a Motor Ambulance kept at the Steppingley Isolation Hospital.

Non-infectious and Accident Cases -

A Public Assistance Ambulance is kept at the Bedford Fire Station and is available for your district. The Fire Station can be communicated with by telephone. The telephone Number is Bedford 2222.

I consider these Ambulance arrangements are quite satisfactory. There is an understanding among neighbouring Authorities that their Ambulances would be available in a case of emergency.

(c) Nursing in the Home -

General

The Local Nursing Association is affiliated to the Bedfordshire Nursing Association. A Nurse is supplied by them who attends to Maternity cases, and Minor Medical and Surgical cases. She does not attend any infectious cases.

Nurse Cheeseman is the Nurse employed.

No provision has been made for the treatment of Infectious Diseases in the patient's own home, but your Council have arranged with the Ampthill R.D.C. to take cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and Typhoid Fever at the Steppingley Isolation Hospital.

Midwives -

There are two Midwives in the Area who have notified their intention of practising this year.

(d) Clinic and Treatment Centres -

These are provided by the County Council.

The Infant Welfare Clinic meet every Friday at 2.30 p.m. at the Ampthill Public Assistance Institute.

The Venereal Disease Clinic is held at the Bedford County Hospital, Ampthill Road entrance. The times the Medical Officer attends are

Wednesday 5 - 7 p.m.

and

Friday 3 - 5 p.m.

The Tuberculosis Clinic is held every Wednesday at 2.30 p.m. at the Tuberculosis Dispensary, Dent Road, Ivy Road, Bedford,

(o) Hospitals -

<u>Hospital</u>	<u>Situation</u>	<u>Purposo</u>	<u>No.</u> <u>of</u> <u>Beds</u>	<u>Medical</u> <u>Staff</u>	<u>Manage-</u> <u>ment</u>
Isolation Hosp.	Steppingley	Infectious diseases.	24	1	L.A.
Small Pox	Bedford	Small Pox	24	1	Bedford Borough
Sanatorium	Moggerhanger	Tuberculosis	84	-	C.C.
Bedford County Hospital	Bedford	General Medical Surgical Maternity Children	134 36 50 13 20		Voluntary
St.Peter's Hosp.	Bedford	General Med- ical & Sur- gical, Mater- nity and Children's	104		
Public Assistance Institute	Amphill	Chronic Sick & Maternity	54		
Children's Home	Kempston	Children	45		

LEGISLATION IN FORCE

Adoptive Acts.

Public Health Act, 1890, Parts i, ii, iii.

Public Health Act, 1925, Parts ii, iii & iv (except
Section 20).

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, Section i.

Bye-Laws and Regulations:

Prevention of Nuisances

Removal of Refuse & Noxious Matter.

Public Sanitary Conveniences.

Cleansing of Footways.

Offensive Trades.

New Streets & Buildings

Common Lodging Houses.

Private Street Works Act, 1892.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

The town is supplied by a public main and all parts of the town have a pipe from which a good and wholesome supply of water can be obtained at a good pressure.

The water is derived from the Greensand and is of excellent quality. The pumping station is at Clophill, which is about 4 miles East of the town.

One chemical Analysis was made during the year and four Bacteriological Analyses, one every three months. I append below the Bacteriological Analysis taken in October 1942.

Colwell & Lickorish,
Finsbury Town Hall,
Rosebery Avenue, E.C.1.

October 13th 1942.

REPORT upon the Bacteriological examination of a sample of WATER forwarded by Mr. R.W. Collison, The Waterworks, Clophill. The sample was received on the 6th October, 1942 and was marked -

"TAP OVER SINK AT HOUSE AT PUMPING STATION".

Number of organisms per c.c.
growing on gelatine at room
temperature in 4 days 20°C.)

6

Liquifying organisms

nil

Number of organisms per c.c.
growing on agar at blood heat
in 48 hours 37°C.)

1

Bacillus Coli

absent from 100 c.c.

OPINION.

This water is in a very satisfactory condition and quite suitable for use for all dietetic purposes.

(Sgd) J. KEAR COLWELL.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR
FOR THE YEAR 1942.

SECTION C. (Continued) Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation. Seven houses have closets on conservancy system; they are on the outskirts of the Town and there have been no conversions during the year.

3. (ii) Public Cleansing. There has been no alteration to the weekly house refuse collection by contract in the town, with quarterly collection in the outlying district. A contract has been entered into for the periodic destruction of rats.

Salvage. The figures for salvaged material are:-

Paper	40 tons	$1\frac{1}{2}$ cwts
Iron	7 "	$14\frac{1}{2}$ "
Non Ferrous		
Metals		$3\frac{1}{2}$ "
Rubber	3 "	5 "
Rags	1 "	$1\frac{3}{4}$ "
Bones	2 "	
Bagging & String		$10\frac{1}{2}$ "
	55 T.	$8\frac{1}{4}$ cwts.

3. (iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area

Tabular Statement by the Sanitary Inspector
Summary of Sanitary Defects found and remedied
during the year.

Dwelling houses with defective roofs and chimney heads	...	1
" " " "	Water closets	...
" " " "	and insanitary drains	...
" " " "	windows	...
" " " "	water supply	...
" " " "	ashbins	...
" " " "	" other dilapidations	...
Dirty premises	...	2
Insanitary accumulation of offensive matter	...	10
Unsound meat and foods	....	35
Nuisance from rats and vermin..	...	3
Nuisance from smoke	....	3

3(iii) (continued)

Rooms disinfected after Scarlet Fever	...	...	10
" " " Diphtheria	...	...	2
" " " Cancer	...	...	3
" " " Tuberculosis	...	...	1
" " " Scabies	...	...	2
" " " Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	...	...	1
Dwelling houses disinfested for bed bugs and lice	...	...	2
Number of Informal Notices issued	...	...	88
Total number of Inspections	...	...	321

3 (iv) Shops and Offices. Temperature and ventilation was found satisfactory in the forty-five shops. Fourteen employ assistants. Sufficient Sanitary Conveniences are provided for shops, offices and other workplaces. Informal notice was served in respect of defective convenience in one case. No action was found necessary under Circular 1600.

3 (v) Camping Sites.

- (1) Number of sites used in 1942 1
- (2) Number of sites in respect of which licences have been issued under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. 1
- (3) Estimated maximum number of campers at one time during 1942 5

3 (vi) Smoke Abatement. Informal Notice was served on one occupier to repair the mechanical draught apparatus of the boiler. In one case intimation of the emission of black smoke was given. This was due to poor fuel, and was improved by an admixture of fuels, alteration of the firebox and more careful stoking.

3 (vii.) Eradication of Bed Bugs

- (1) (a) No Council Houses
(b) 2 other houses.
(i) were found to be infested and
(ii) were disinfested.
- (2) One house was sprayed with "Zaldecide" and one fumigated with Lawes Disinfestator" Blocks.

- (3) To ensure that belongings of tenants are free from vermin, these are inspected before removal to Council Houses.
- (4) Work of disinfection is carried out by the Local Authority.
- (5) Measures to prevent infestation or re-infestation after cleansing are inspection, supervision and advice.

SECTION D. HOUSING

Number of new houses erected during the year.

1.	By the Local Authority	0
2.	By other Local Authorities	0
3.	By other bodies or persons	0

During the year plans have been received for:
1 Bungalow, 4 Additions, 1 Garage and 1 Cooking Depot.

Informal Action under the Clearance of Lofts Orders was taken in two cases.

SECTION E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

- (a) Milk Supply. Two producers and three retailers are registered. Defects were found and remedied at one cowshed.
One supplementary Licence to sell Pasteurised Milk has been issued.

- (b) Meat and other Foods. The butchers' shops were periodically visited and found generally satisfactory. The following were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

3 cwts. 1 qr. 25 lbs. Mutton	2 qrs. Cooking Fat.
7 " 3 " 8 "	240 lbs. Flour.
369 eggs	10 lbs. Baking Powder
44 tins meat	67 tins of other food
104 tins milk.	

Bakehouses etc. The bakehouses and shops have been visited at intervals and were found satisfactory.

(Signed) Thos. A. Hawtin,
Sanitary Inspector and
Surveyor.
April, 1943.

SCHOOLS

There are two schools in your district which attend to the education of all the children in the town.

1. The Bedford Road School

Church of England

Average number on roll	111
" " of attendances	101

The sanitary conveniences are: for boys 3: for girls 2: for infants 2. They are on the water carriage system and connected with the public sewer.

2. Woburn Road School.

This is a Methodist Day School.

Average number on the roll	151
" " of attendances	137

Sanitary conveniences: for boys 3: for girls and infants 5. They are on the water carriage system and connected to the public sewer.

SECTION F.

Provaloncc of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

The Steppingley Isolation Hospital receives cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Typhoid Fever from your District.

Number of Patients remaining in Hospital, on Jan.1, 1942

Scarlet Fever	.....	0
Diphtheria	.....	0
Other cases	.....	0

Admission during the year:

Scarlet Fever	.....	9
Diphtheria	.....	1
Corebro Spinal Meningitis	.....	1
Other cases	.....	3

Discharges during the year:

Scarlet Fever	.....	5
Diphtheria	.....	1
Other cases	.....	3

Deaths. Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis 1

Number of Patients remaining in Hospital
December 31st 1942:

Scarlet Fever	.....	4
Diphtheria	.....	0

Scarlet Fever. Nine cases notified: all were treated at the Isolation Hospital and recovered.

Diphtheria.

One case notified: he was treated at the Isolation Hospital and recovered. The age of this case was 22; he was not immunised against Diphtheria.

The diagnosis was not corroborated by the bacteriological result.

Pneumonia. Two cases notified.

Measles. No case notified.

Whooping-Cough. No cases were reported.

Cerebro-spinal Meningitis

One case notified which proved fatal.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES
(Other than Tuberculosis)

ARTIFICIAL IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

A number of children have been immunised against Diphtheria during the year under review and during previous years.

I give details below: the children are divided into two groups.

1. Children of School age.
2. Children under School age.

1. Children of School Age.

Number on School Rolls on Jan: 1st.	324
" " " " " Dec: 31st.	306

18

The smaller attendance is explained by the fact that a number of evacuated children returned to their homes during the year.

Number of Children immunised on Jan: 1st	163
" " " " during the year	34

Total of immunised children	197
Approximate number of immunised Children who had left the school during the year, i.e. 50% of 18	9

The number immunised on Dec: 31st	188
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Percentage of immunised on Jan: 1st.	53.08
" " " " Dec:31st.	61.1

2. Children under School Age.

Estimated number on Jan: 1st.	200
" " " " Dec. 31st.	200

Number immunised on Jan: 1st.	1
" " between Jan: 1st & June 30th.	2
" " June 30th & Dec: 31st.	41
Total number immunised by Dec: 31st.	44

Percentage of immunised on Jan: 1st.	.5
" " " June 30th.	1.5
" " " Dec: 31st.	22.0

I was not satisfied with the slow progress made with the immunisation of these children especially as the age of one to five years is the most susceptible period to this disease in a child's life.

Up to June 30th of the year under review the arrangement I made with Dr. Welch, the County Medical Officer of Health was that all these children should be immunised at the various Infant Welfare Clinics; subsequently I came to the conclusion that I would obtain better results by getting the patient's own doctor to do the immunisation. I, therefore, with the approval of Dr. Welch, supplemented the above arrangements by circularising, during the latter half of the year, all parents of children in this group; I pointed out that immunisation would be carried out free of cost to the parents and I strongly urged them to take their children to their own doctor during his surgery hours. In the meantime I wrote to all the doctors concerned and obtained their willingness to immunise children at a fee of 2/6 per injection. By this means we were successful during the second half of the year in raising the percentage of immunised children from 1.5% to 22.0%.

I am still not satisfied with this result and it is difficult to make parents realise the benefits to be derived from immunisation.

During the year only one notification of Diphtheria was received. The age was 22 and the bacteriological examination proved negative. It was later diagnosed as a case of Tonsilitis and discharged from the Hospital.



SCABIES ORDER 1941

We have had a few cases of Scabies: they have been treated at St. Peter's Hospital.

Public Health. (Small pox prevention)

Regulation 1917.

No cases have occurred.

Cancer.

3 deaths were registered. 1 male and 2 females.

Males.

Alimentary system. One case. Age 68.

Females.

Uterus. One case age 54.

Other systems. One case age 62.

Prevention of Blindness.

No action was required under Section 176 of the Public Health Act 1936.

TUBERCULOSIS

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 and Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172.

No action was required to be taken under these Acts.

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 year to 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 " 10 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 " 15 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 " 20 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 " 25 "	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 " 35 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 " 45 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 " 55 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 " 65 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 " and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

All Tuberculosis cases have been notified therefore the ratio of non-notified Tuberculosis Deaths to total Tuberculosis Deaths is nil.

In conclusion, I wish to thank your Clerk, Mr. Orme, your Deputy Clerk Mr. Aylett, and your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Hawtin, for their valuable assistance in the past year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WALTER K. PARBURY,

M.R.C.S.Eng., L.R.C.P., Ldn.

D.P.H.Camb., D.M.R.E.Camb.

